

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By this Amendment, Claims 2, 4-41 and 43-224 have been canceled and new Claims 225-238 have been added. Amendments made to the currently pending claims have support in the specification at, for example, page 19, lines 18-29. No new matter has been introduced.

Interview Summary

The courtesy of Examiners Winter, Hewitt, and Worjoh extended to Applicants' representatives during a personal interviews conducted on February 10, 2009, are gratefully appreciated. At the interview, the differences between the present invention and the cited prior art were discussed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action dated November 18, 2008, Claims 2, 4-41, and 43-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 532,920 to Hartrick et al. ("Hartrick") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,796,220 to Wolfe ("Wolfe"). It is noted that Claims 2, 4-41 and 43-224 have been canceled and new Claims 225-238 have been presented. To the extent the rejection remains applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants traverse the rejection, as follows.

Regarding new claim 225, it is respectfully submitted that the cited prior art of record, when taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest at least the

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following combination of features: "receiving, via a processor of a library unit, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the library unit has an identification (library ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID); requesting the electronic book from an operation center; upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer; transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code from the operation center to the library unit, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the library ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book; receiving, at the library unit, the data signal and the local authorization code; storing the received authorization code; transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer, and at the electronic book viewer, decrypting the encrypted content of the electronic book using the local authorization code; displaying pages of the electronic book; storing the electronic book in a memory, and controlling viewing of the electronic book via a control panel of the electronic book viewer, wherein the electronic viewer is separate from the library unit and communicates with library unit via a wired or wireless interface," as recited in new claim 225.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 225 is allowable over the cited art of record. Due to their dependency from new claim 225,

claims 226-238 are likewise allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional subject matter therein.

In addition, the priority date of the claimed invention goes back to at least as early as the filing date of U.S. Patent No. 5,986,690, i.e., November 7, 1994, which is earlier than the filing date of Hartrick, i.e., December 28, 1994. As the claimed features bear an earlier priority date than the filing date of Hartrick, Hartrick should be removed as a prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

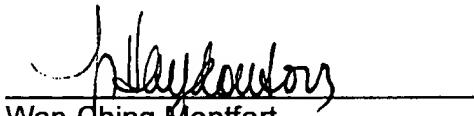
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of all the pending claims, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing docket number **026880.00024**.

Respectfully submitted,



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